

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member;
a charging member for charging said image bearing
5 member, the charging member bearing electrically
conductive particles that contact said image bearing
member; and

a developer carrying member for carrying a
developer provided with toner and electrically
10 conductive particles, the developer carrying means
being applied a voltage to develop an electrostatic
image formed on said image bearing member with the
developer and being capable of collecting a residual
developer on said image bearing member, wherein
15 said developer carrying member is provided in such
a manner that said developer carrying member opposes
said image bearing member via a gap of 150 μm or more
and 250 μm or less.

20 2. An image forming apparatus according to claim
1, wherein

said electrically conductive particles has a
particle resistance of 10^{-1} Ωcm or more and 10^{12} Ωcm or
less and a particle diameter of 0.5 μm or more and 10
25 μm or less.

3. An image forming apparatus according to claim

00900044-07001
T06020-4400660

1, wherein

said electrically conductive particles are charged to have a reverse polarity with respect to said toner on said developer carrying member.

5

4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said charging member forms a nip portion between said charging member and said image bearing member, and said electrically conductive particles are caused to intervene in said nip portion.

10

5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

said charging member is capable of moving at a peripheral velocity different from a peripheral velocity of said image bearing member in said nip portion.

15

6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

a moving direction of the surface of said charging member is opposite to a moving direction of the surface of said image bearing member in said nip portion.

20

25

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said image bearing member is provided with a surface layer of $1 \times 10^9 \Omega\text{cm}$ or more and $1 \times 10^{14} \Omega\text{cm}$ or less.

5 8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

 said charging member injects a charge to charge said image bearing member without substantially generating a discharge between said charging member and
10 said image bearing member.

 9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

 said developer carrying member is capable of
15 performing an operation of collecting said residual developer from said image bearing member simultaneously with performing a developing operation.

 10. An image forming apparatus according to claim
20 1, wherein

 said voltage is applied to said developer carrying member, whereby an electric field for flying a developer from said developer carrying member to said image bearing member.

25

 11. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

09900044-070901

a voltage is applied to said charging member.

12. An image forming apparatus according to claim
1, wherein

5 said apparatus has transferring means for
transferring a toner image from said image bearing
member to a recording medium.

13. An image forming apparatus according to claim
10 1, wherein

 said image bearing member, said charging member
and said developer carrying member are provided in a
process cartridge that is detachably mountable to the
main member of said apparatus.

15

0590044-070901